

Town Planning/Building Committee for Salem School Renovation
November 17, 2009
Salem School Teacher's Lounge
7:00 P.M.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2009 REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Dick Asafaylo, Monica McIntyre, Jim Choquette, Bill Weinschenker, Donna Leake, Chris LaRose, Dinis Pimentel

ABSENT: Donald Bourdeau, Mike Siebert, Jenifer Lee, Stuart Gadbois

GUESTS: Chuck Boos, Steve Buck, Daniel Kung

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:09 P.M. by Dinis Pimentel, Chairman.

M/S/C (Choquette/McIntyre) to approve the October 27, 2009 minutes as presented. Vote: Yes-4 No-0 Abstain- 2 (D. Asafaylo, B. Weinschenker).

A meeting was held with Bob Ross, Kevin Lyden, Jim Choquette, Dinis Pimentel, and Chuck Boos. D. Pimentel noted that at the meeting B. Ross liked the "strategic view" of building a new school on property south of the current school; it would cost more but could make more sense. K. Lyden wondered what simply code-related projects could be done.

C. Boos was asked about building a new school. If the middle school were to be kept at the current site and keep the gym, grades 5-8 would be about 240 children. The old section of the building could be used as a community center or torn down. A new school could have Pre-K through grade 4 at about 240 children. A better number of children would be 500, which is a good number for a viable school at about 60,000-70,000 square feet. That could cost about \$28,000,000 to build at a cost of about \$18,000,000-\$20,000,000 to the Town. The current school would also still need work.

D. Asafaylo wanted to take a look at the membership of the Committee. K. Lyden already resigned, D. Pimentel is deploying to Iraq for a year beginning in the spring of 2010, and M. McIntyre is now on the Board of Education and may not be able to attend these meetings as well. Three of nine original members may be gone. He will recommend to the Board of Selectmen about revising the Committee's Charter, which will be running up soon.

The committee discussed doing only code-compliant work. The general consensus was that this was not what the Committee set out to do. It is a plan to fall back on, not begin with. C. LaRose commented that the biggest problems with the school are not code, they are roofs and boilers (systems) and ADA you do because you have to.

D. Pimentel commented that the Committee and project needs support of the Boards in Town. He suggested having an informational session at the school where the Town can have a chance to talk in an informal forum setting. This will help have feedback for the Boards.

D. Pimentel asked the Committee about how they felt at this point about the renovation project. The general consensus was good, but D. Asafaylo was concerned about the project increasing the mill rate, the cost of the project going up, and the fact that Pfizer eliminated its New London quarters and it is unknown if people may leave Salem because of it. He was also concerned about the status of the State's current and future debt. This could all have a negative effect on the outcome of the project.

M/S/C (LaRose/Choquette) For the Building Committee to host a public informational meeting on December 8, 2009 in the multi-purpose room and present to the Board of Selectmen on December 1,

2009 a recommendation for a referendum in January on the \$15,000,000 renovation project with at least 30% reimbursement from the State. Vote: All in favor.

D. Pimentel wanted to gather a working group to plan, organize, and help create a presentation for the upcoming informational meeting. C. LaRose and J. Choquette also volunteered to join. D. Pimentel will notify the Political Action Committee of the meeting later this week to begin doing this.

Next meeting date is November 24, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at Salem School.

M/S/C (Choquette/Pimentel) to adjourn. Vote: All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lindsay K. Chester

Recording Secretary